

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG SY

SUBJECT: FHAMY ON UPCOMING EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN MEETING IN RIYADH

REF: CAIRO 6701

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, HE MENTIONED THAT IT IS STILL POSSIBLE HE MAY ACCOMPANY PRIMIN MAMDOUH SALEM TO RIYADH NEXT WEDNESDAY. IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHETHER AYYQUBI BRINGS KHADDAM WITH HIM. ALTHOUGH SADAT HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO THE SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS HE WOULD NOT AGREE TO A MEETING WITH KHADDAM, THE EGYPTIANS STILL SUSPECT THAT AT THE LAST MOMENT KHADDAM MAY PREVAIL UPON ASAD TO BE SENT ALONG TO RIYADH. FAHMY IS THEREFORE STANDING BY JUST IN CASE THIS HAPPENS.

2. ASKED ABOUT HIS OBSERVATION ON SYRIAN STATEMENT OF MAY 11, FAHMY SAID THAT IT WAS INTENDED AGAIN TO MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THE SYRIANS THAT EGYPT IS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS SINAI II OR ANY MATTERS CONNECTED WITH IT. EGYPTIANS HAD ALSO HAD INDICATIONS SYRIANS MAY DEMAND THAT GOE STOP ISRAELI CARGOES FROM TRANSITTING

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SUEZ CANAL. IF SYRIANS TRY TO DO SO, THIS TOO WILL BE

REFUSED. IF SYRIANS PERSIST IN THE HOPE THAT THEY CAN WIN SAUDI AND KUWAITI SUPPORT, THE CONFERENCE WILL FOLD AT THAT POINT. GOE HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS, FAHMY REITERATED, ITS UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT CONNECTED WITH SINAI II. EGYPTIANS ARE PREPARED FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF COMPLAINTS EACH COUNTRY HAS AGAINST THE OTHER.

3. ASKED IF LEBANON WILL BE DISCUSSED, FAHMY SAID IT IS NOT ON THE AGENDA. EGYPTIAN SIDE DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE IT. IF SYRIANS DO, EGYPTIAN SIDE WILL RESPOND SETTING FORTH ITS COMPLAINTS THAT SYRIAN ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON ARE PRIMARILY DIRECTED AGAINST EGYPT AND THE PALESTINIANS. EGYPTIAN SIDE WILL "EXPOSE" NEFARIOUS SYRIAN OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON SO THAT SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS ARE MADE FULLY AWARE OF THEM. SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS WILL BE URGED TO ASK ARAFAT AND AL-FATAH WHETHER EGYPTIAN CHARGE IS TRUE.

4. I NOTED EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED LIKELIHOOD OF A SADAT-ASAD MEETING IN JUNE. FAHMY REMARKED PRESS STORY WAS PREMATURE. HE RECALLED HE HAD EARLIER TOLD ME THAT SADAT ADVISED THE KUWAITIS THAT HE IS NOT READY AS YET TO MEET WITH ASAD. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON SYRIAN ATTITUDE. IF THEY CEASE ATTACKING SADAT AND SINAI II AND SHOW A DESIRE TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING ISSUES, THEN SUCH A SUMMIT IS POSSIBLE. IF NOT, THERE WILL BE NO SUMMIT. WHILE EGYPT WOULD WELCOME A RECONCILIATION WITH SYRIA, IT IS NOT PREPARED TO PAY A POLITICAL PRICE. I TOLD HIM OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT SYRIAN PUBLIC MEDIA HAS PAST THREE DAYS STOPPED ATTACKS ON SINAI II. HE RESPONDED THIS IS BECAUSE EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED CEASE ATTACKS ON SYRIA AND HAS DONE SO FOR PAST SEVEN DAYS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SYRIAN PUBLIC MEDIA HAS BEEN ATTACKING MRS. SADAT AND THAT SUCH ATTACKS HAVE INCENSED THE PRESIDENT. THERE MUST BE A PERMANENT CESSATION OF ALL PUBLIC MEDIA ATTACKS.

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5. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM FAHMY'S COMMENTS, EGYPTIANS INTEND TO BE HARDNOSED AT RIYADH CONFERENCE. THEY SEEM TO FEEL THEY HAVE THE UPPER HAND AND THAT SYRIANS, FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, HAVE HAD TO SEEK SAUDI AND KUWAITI INTERCESSION. EGYPTIANS ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PRESSURE ON ASAD FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE SYRIA REMAINS INTENSE BECAUSE OF LEBANESE INVOLVEMENT AND SEEM TO RELISH THE PROSPECT OF

CONTINUING TO RUB SYRIAN NOSES IN THE DIRT. MUCH
WILL DEPEND UPON SAUDI AND KUWAITI SKILL IN
PERSUADING BOTH SIDES TO APPROACH RIYADH
MEETING IN A CONSTRUCTIVE RATHER THAN MILITANT
SPIRIT.
EILTS

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